

Becker Barn
(Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore)
East Munising
Alger County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-307

HABS
MICH,
2- MUNIE,
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HABS
MICH,
2-MUNIE,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BECKER BARN

HABS No. MI-307

Address: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
East Munising
Alger County
Michigan

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and Subsequent Owners: Following is a brief summary of the chain of title to the barn property. Because of the nature of the research involved, it was not possible to obtain a legal description of the deeds which should be found recorded in the Alger County Courthouse. Also deed D-139 is WASO Office of National Park Service:

1906 - Daniel and Margaret Becker purchased the John Lehnan farm in East Munising.

Guy Becker, one of seven children, operated farm following death of parents.

Guy Becker sold farm to National Park Service.

2. Date of Erection: 1912.
3. Architect: Probably none.
4. Alterations and additions: Aside from routine replacement of worn elements, such as the roof, no major alterations have been made or additions built.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. The Becker Barn was the scene of the daily milking and feeding of the Becker dairy herd for a period of over half a century. The barn was built and maintained by Daniel Becker and his descendants until its sale to the National Park Service.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Alger County Historical Society.
2. See Field Records for photographs and dimensioned sketch plans.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A typical multi-sided barn built during the early 1900s. Unusual due to the fact it has fourteen sides.
2. Condition of fabric: Ruins.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This fourteen-sided barn is centered around a 11.5' diameter storage silo. The exterior walls of the barn are a distance of 25.75' from the center of the silo. The barn measures approximately 34' high with the top of the silo measuring about 40' high.
2. Foundation: A combination of mortared concrete block and various types of brick masonry, measures approximately 8.5' from the ground.
3. Wall construction: Frame walls covered with horizontal plank siding on the exterior. No exterior finish. Rusticated concrete block facing on the ground floor.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame exterior walls.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Various door openings in the structure. Doors which remain hung are vertical plank doors with 'Z' bracing.
 - b. Windows: Various window openings in the frame walls and foundation. No glass remains.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Fourteen-sided, double-sloped, polygonal roof, covering the barn. Fourteen-sided single sloped, polygonal roof over the silo. Both roofs covered with tar paper over wood sheathing above wood joists.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Fourteen-sided barn centered around a storage silo. Ground floor used as a milking barn. Loft above.
2. Stairways: Ladders to loft above.

3. Flooring: Ground floor is thought to be of poured concrete. Upper floors are of wood joists and floor boards.
4. Doorways and doors: No interior doors other than openings into the silo at the base.
5. Hardware: Metal stanchions used for the feeding and milking of cows.

D. Site:

1. General setting: Relatively level site. Surrounding vegetation consists of small trees and various tall grasses.
2. Outbuildings: None of any significance. All in a state of ruin.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Becker Barn was documented by the Midwest Region of the National Park Service prior to the demolition of the ruins in 1976.